

## Upwood Public Houses

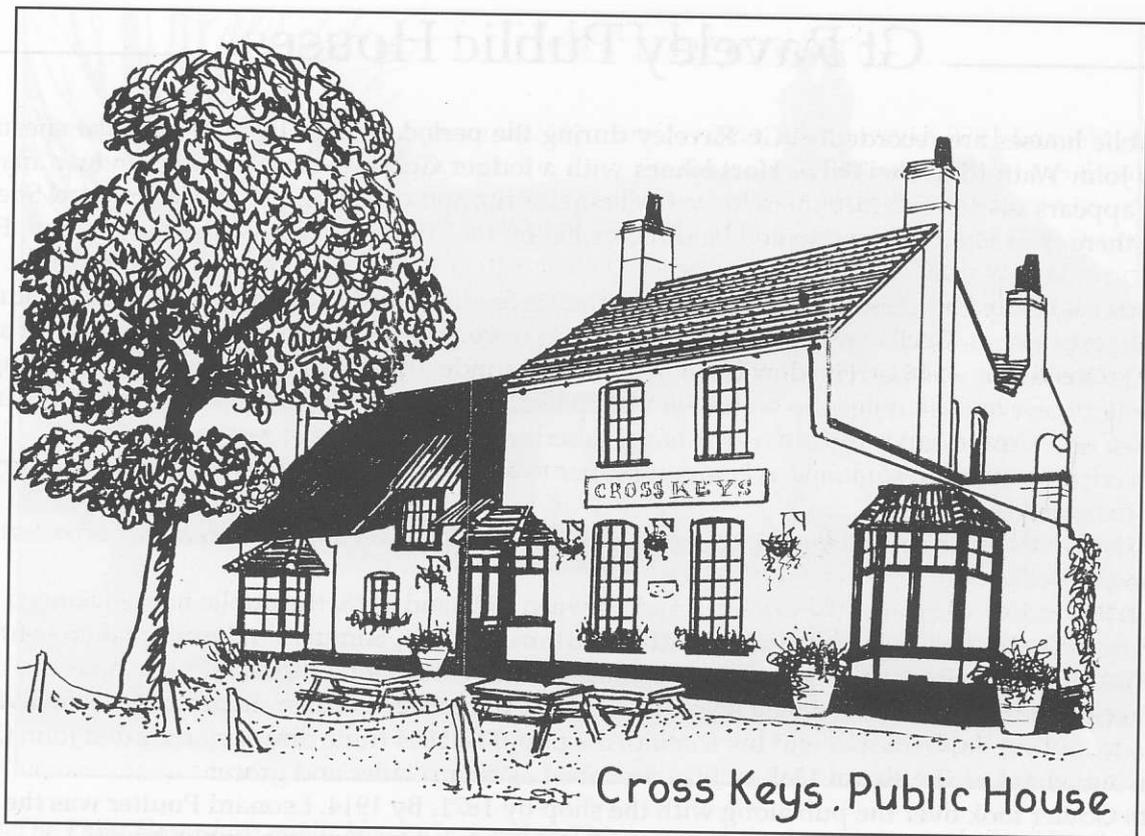
Between 1850 and 1950, Upwood supported three public houses. John Sinclair was publican and farmer at **the Cross Keys** in 1851; by 1869 Samuel Murfin was publican and carpenter whilst Peter Kay appeared in 1881 as licensed victualler and carpenter. In 1910 Marshall's Brewery of Huntingdon are recorded as the owners with Peter Kay as tenant. He remained landlord to 1914.

Smith and Ada Townsend were tenants between 1920 and 1926. A villager remembers *'he had a butcher's shop at the end with scales and benches. The show was all very new. The slaughterhouse was at the back; his sausages were lovely'*. The next tenants, Cecil and Gwendoline Lavender, were publicans from 1936 to 1940, possibly longer. They were succeeded in 1948 by Headley (Stan) and Edith Saunders and, in 1953, by Charles Gaunt following the closure of the Royal Oak where he had previously been landlord.

**The Rose and Crown** public house provided beer and other refreshments from about 1839 until 1922. In 1851 James Isley, an agricultural labourer and publican, lived there with his wife Jane, seven children and two lodgers. James Isley remained as landlord up to 1877 and in 1891 the census records Jane, now aged 73, as publican. By 1898 the tenancy had been transferred to Mrs Ada Darwood and in 1906 Harry Gaunt is noted as 'beer retailer'. *'The Rose and Crown, together with two small closes'*, was sold on 1st November 1921 to John Hidson Key, the tenants at that time being Harry Gaunt and James Isley (son of the earlier James Isley).

The same property, now called Meadowbrook, is noted in a trade directory of 1928 as the home of John Key. It seems that the Rose and Crown ceased to be a public house between 1921 and 1928. Some of the older villagers recall that there was a bowling alley in the garden. The present house retains many of the old features of the pub, including the Georgian windows and original front door with portico.

In 1851 the tenant of **the Royal Oak** public house was William Woodcock, publican and carrier, with his wife Susannah and two children. By 1869 William Key was tenant and appears in 1871 as publican and carrier. John Gaunt was the landlord in 1885 and the Gaunt family remained as tenants of the Royal Oak until about 1952 when the pub closed.



*Cross Keys public house — probably the oldest public house in the village.*

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## Gt Raveley Public Houses

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Two public houses are recorded in Gt. Raveley during the period 1850 to 1950. In 1851 the census return shows John Watford at the **Three Horseshoes** with a lodger George Marden, a journeyman blacksmith. James Toft appears as the landlord in 1861, described as publican and wheelwright. By 1871 Samuel Shepperson was living there, described as publican and blacksmith and by 1885 there was yet another new tenant, Frederick Stocker.

The 1910 Land Duty Valuation shows the owner of the Three Horseshoes as Marshall Brothers of Huntingdon and describes the premises as a house, shop premises and land with a gross value of £10 15s 0d, with a rateable value of £9. The house was described as brick, stud and thatch with four rooms upstairs, two sitting rooms, kitchen, cellar, wash-house downstairs a butcher's shop lean-to attached together with a trap-house and stable built of brick and pantile and a three-bay cart hovel described as 'old, with poor roof'.

The advertisement in the *Huntingdon Post* newspaper to let the public house by Marshalls Brewery in 1912 described the premises thus:

*'The Three Horseshoes Inn with Slaughter house, Smithy and Stabling at Great Raveley, with immediate possession.'* The advertisement cost 6d.

By 1914, William Dodson was the publican and between 1920 and 1928, the public house changed hands to Thomas Edwards. Robert Edwards was landlord in 1931 and in 1936, Samuel Poulter has taken over the pub. Between 1940 and 1950, Ernest Milner was the publican at the Three Horseshoes.

The other public house in Gt. Raveley was known as the **Carpenter's Arms**, situate at the Woodwalton end of the village. In 1851, John Cooper and his wife ran the pub. The 1854 trade directory recorded John Cooper as a publican and shopkeeper, and in 1861 he was described as beer retailer and grocer.

William Govier took over the pub along with the shop by 1871. By 1914, Leonard Poulter was the publican and sometime between 1920 and 1928 the Carpenter's Arms ceased trading as a public house.



*The Three Horseshoes public house, Gt. Raveley. This was, over the years, home to the local butcher and wheelwright.*

## Grocers

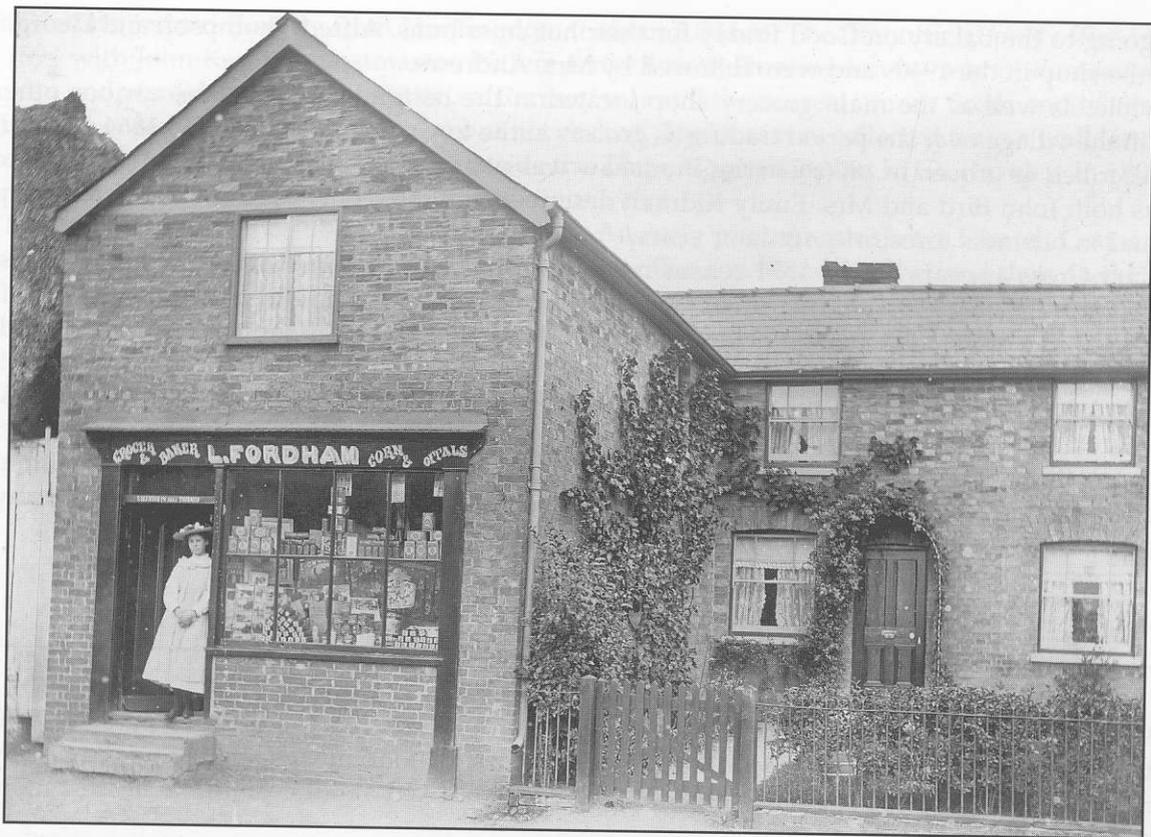
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In 1851 Upwood could boast two grocers, Kington and Clarke. Thomas Kington, born in Needingworth, settled in Upwood with his wife, Maria, and their children. The family lived and traded from Rose Cottage, located behind what was then the Rose & Crown public house. The family appear very prosperous, being described variously as grocers, drapers and dealers but they seem to have left the village between 1855 and 1861.

The Clarke family were also at this time recorded as running the village shop. Thomas Clarke, grocer and carrier, lived in the shop opposite the Rose & Crown PH, with his wife Elizabeth and their two youngest children Elizabeth Ann and Louisa. Thomas Clarke died in 1874 aged 74 years and his son Fred Clarke took over the business.

By 1876, the trade directory shows that Fred Clarke was described as baker, miller and grocer. This is perhaps when the bakery was added to the shop and up until as recently as 1960, we know that there was a granary and bakery on the site of the shop. The foundations of the granary still remain, although covered with earth whilst the bakery has been incorporated into the house. One story from this period tells how a fire broke out in the bakery one Sunday morning. The vicar's sermon was interrupted with cries of 'Fire! Fire!' and the church service was suspended so people could lend a hand putting out the flames.

By 1898 the shop was in the ownership of Lewis Fordham whose family retained it until 1931. During this period he also acquired the corn windmill. Vi and Hettie Fordham, two daughters, helped in the shop. It was around this time that, according to an elderly villager, Mrs. Jacobs who lived at Rose Cottage ran her sweet shop next to Miss Gaunt's cottage. Children would have to go to Rose Cottage to fetch Mrs. Jacobs who would sell sweets priced ½d for a ¼lb. and 1d for ½lb. 1931 saw yet another change in ownership. This time Frederick W. Lantaff and his wife, Olive Louisa, became the grocers. Frederick had a custom painted sign on his van especially for delivery of groceries to outlying districts. Three girls helped in the shop whilst Alfred Thompson and George Shelton (known as George Eddy) were employed as the bakers. Many villagers remember, as



*Upwood Village Shop at the turn of the century.*

children, going to the bakery on Good Friday for their hot cross buns. Alfred Thompson and George Shelton took over the shop in the 1940s and were followed by Mrs. Andrews.

Meanwhile, as well as the main grocery shop located at the bottom of the village, various other people appeared in the village over the period trading as grocers at the top end of the village. In 1864 we find a James Sinclair, described as grocer. In 1876, Charles Bradshaw was named a shopkeeper and in 1877 the trade directory shows both John Bird and Mrs. Emily Kidman described as shopkeepers. No trace of these shopkeepers can be found in business directories for later years.

Mrs. Mary Cross appears on the 1871 census return as a grocer's wife, her husband described as *being in hospital in Huntingdon*. By 1881 William Cross is back home again, trading as a market gardener, with his wife Mary described as a grocer. The family including three children were living in the cottage and shop adjacent to the Church.

The King family ran a fish shop in the High Street, opposite Church Cottage and many villagers can still remember fetching home a hot fish supper.

GREAT RAVELEY during this time also had its own grocers — namely Daniel Bullen and John Cooper. Daniel Bullen was succeeded by his daughter after his death in 1866. By 1876 there was no longer any trace of a grocery shop in Great Raveley.

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## The Post Office

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The 1854 trade directory informs us that 'letters through Bury' arrived for all three parishes of Upwood, Great and Little Raveley. Letters in 1864 came via Old Hurst by foot messenger, having previously arrived from Huntingdon about 10am. The returning post was then collected about 4 p.m. The nearest money order office was at Ramsey.

By 1885 letters arrived directly from Huntingdon at about 9.30a.m. The first official post office in Upwood came in 1894 with John Key, sub-postmaster. Letters arrived from Huntingdon by way of Ramsey at 8.20a.m. and 4.15p.m. and were despatched about 4p.m. Ramsey was still the nearest money order and telegraph office although postal orders could be bought here but not cashed. The post was collected from a wall letterbox near the church in Upwood and from a letterbox outside the Three Horseshoes Inn in Gt. Raveley. In 1903 the wall letterbox near the church in Upwood was cleared twice a day

Fred Townsend became the sub-postmaster in 1914. An early photograph shows Church Cottage, divided into three dwellings, one part of which was the Post Office. The Townsend family lived there in the early part of the 20th century. The nearest money order office was now Wistow but Ramsey remained the nearest telegraph office. Fred Townsend later became the milkman, delivering the milk on his bicycle.

In 1920, widow Druscilla Thompson became the postmistress. The post office moved from Church Cottages to Post Office row at the top of the village. The post office remained in the Thompson/Shaw family, (through marriage), for two generations closing in 1994, having moved down the village High Street to be incorporated into the grocer's shop, opposite the old Rose & Crown PH. Mr. & Mrs. Doug Shaw were the last people to trade from the shop. The post box outside the old shop is still in use.

## — Wheelwrights, Carpenters & Farm Machinery —

The crafts or trades of wheelwright and carpenter are often linked, many wheelwrights also being skilled carpenters in their own right. Wheelwrights were in demand not just for their wheelmaking abilities but also for other tasks requiring the skills learned through wheelmaking. Carpenters often found themselves working on unusual jobs, perhaps the saddest one being coffin-making, whilst the introduction of steam into farm machinery brought a new type of entrepreneur into the village — the machinist.

The stories of the Murfin and Thompson families are intertwined during the 1850–1950 period, both being involved in all three businesses at different times. However, other families also featured, albeit only briefly, and it is interesting to note that in 1871 Upwood could boast two wheelwrights and two carpenters.

In 1851, John Carter was the wheelwright in Upwood. John, the son and grandson of wheelwrights of Upwood, had his wheelwrighting business at the top end of the village High Street, opposite what is now Townsend farm yard. The churchwardens accounts show that John Carter was also carrying out carpentering jobs for the church in the 1850s.

In 1861 the Thompson family were the wheelwrights in Great Raveley whilst John Carter, now an elderly man, was still the wheelwright in Upwood and Mark Dubery was the carpenter. John Carter died in 1867 and his children, now fully grown with families of their own, had moved away from Upwood. After John Carter's demise, his yard was redeveloped with new houses being built, nowadays referred to as Post Office row.

Meanwhile the Thompson family from Great Raveley had moved into Upwood and settled in Providence Place on Huntingdon Road. By 1869 William Thompson was styled wheelwright and machinist, whilst Samuel Murfin from Broughton had settled in the Cross Keys Inn and was running a carpentering business.

In 1871 James Jacobs was the carpenter in Upwood. James and his wife Rebecca had moved into Upwood from Gt. Raveley within the last year together with their son, married daughter and grandchild. Both father and son were named James and both carried on the business of carpentering with a side-line of carrier.

The same 1871 census shows William Thompson as the wheelwright employing three men. His eldest son



*The Royal Oak public house, Upwood. An early picture showing Huntingdon Road looking towards Ramsey with the pub on the left — you can just see the sign.*

George was an engine fitter whilst his second son William was a wheelwright and carpenter, working for his father.

James Ward appeared in 1876 as a carpenter in Upwood and by 1877 is recorded as the wheelwright whilst William Thompson was shown as a machine owner, showing the gradual shift for the Thompson family away from wheelwrighting into agricultural machinery.

By 1881, Peter Kay had moved into the Cross Keys Inn whilst Samuel Murfin was living at the Carpenters House, situate opposite Collett Row. Samuel, by now aged 60 years, had his son Cornelius, aged 14 years, working with him as an apprentice. James Jacobs junior carried on his father's business as carpenter at the lower end of the village.

There is no wheelwright recorded in the village in 1881 but by 1885 Peter Kay appeared in the *Kelly's Trade Directory* as publican of the Cross Keys and wheelwright — a position he continued to hold up to the turn of the century. It is not until 1894 that Cornelius Murfin appeared as the wheelwright in Upwood and from this time onwards until the mid-1930s Cornelius was the established wheelwright and carpenter in the village, adding saw mills to his business. By 1931 the trade directory shows the business as C. Murfin & Sons, builders, wheelwrights, sawing mills etc. In March 1935, Cornelius Murfin died suddenly in Huntingdon Hospital.

With the advent of pneumatic tyres and mass production of wheels the Murfin family concentrated their efforts into buildings and carpentry in the 1940s. One of the more unusual side-lines appears to have been the repairing and decorating of gypsy caravans. Many of the tools that belonged to the Murfin family business were given to the Ramsey Rural Museum.

Meanwhile the Thompson family expanded their business in Providence Place. The 1903 trade directory shows William Thompson & Sons, engineers, steam ploughing, cultivating and thrashing engine proprietors with sons David and George shown as engineers. The Thompson business thrived with few farmers having their own machinery and the steam engines were in constant demand for ploughing, harvesting and threshing. In 1914 George Thompson took over the business with his son and by 1924 the business is known as George Thompson and Son, engineers. The Thompson family lost one son in the Great War. By 1931 the business appears to have ceased trading although members of the family still live in Upwood.



*The Wedding Day. Back row — Jack Gaunt, unknown, Fred Gaunt (groom), Alice Bass (bride), Mr Bass. Front row — Mrs Gaunt, Bessie Gaunt, unknown, Nellie Gaunt, Mrs Bass.*

## Blacksmiths

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The 1851 census return shows two blacksmiths in the village of Upwood. Edward Hodson was one of the blacksmiths, aged 26 years. With him was an apprentice, Isaac Richardson. Both men came from Warboys. The other blacksmith was Smith Shelton, a Ramsey man. His wife, Frances, was an Upwood girl and they had seven children living at home in 1851. None of these children followed their father into the smithing trade. One grandson, George, became the baker and another, James, was horsekeeper for Colonel Moubray of Upwood House. Another grandson, William Shelton, did work for Albert Ingle, blacksmith, in the 1890s. Two of Smith Shelton's great-grandchildren still reside in nearby Woodwalton.

Smith Shelton is reputed to be the last blacksmith in the area to shoe cattle with leather shoes for walking to market. In 1868 he died aged 75 years.

Francis Austin took over the smithie around 1869. He was from Gt. Gidding and his wife, Lydia, came from Warboys. They had four children living at home in 1871. The same census return in 1871 shows John Brighty as a blacksmith although his work may have been farm-based.

In the early 1880s, Albert Henry Ingle from Waterbeach took over the blacksmithing business in Upwood. Albert and his wife Martha had five children. The youngest son, David, was killed in the Great War aged just 18 years. Mrs. Hempsted, a descendant, recalls that 'Albert worked in a large wooden shed complete with furnace, anvil etc. He also kept horses and cows. Martha (his wife) worked in the kitchen dairy and made butter in a wooden churn. She sold milk to customers who brought their own jugs'. Albert Ingle retired in 1911 but remained in Upwood until his death.

Frederick Barham took over the business from Albert Ingle around 1912. His first smithie shop was on the West side of the High Street and he lived in Colletts Row, now called Post Office Row. He subsequently moved across the High Street to Rose Villa (now called the Old Forge) and retired in the village.

One local lady, Mrs. Axbey, commented 'he shod horses and repaired wheels and farm machinery till all these modern things came. You could hear his hammer going right in the village'.



Frederick Barham — Upwood blacksmith c.1912.

## Other Trades

Other trades were also well represented in Upwood and Raveley throughout the hundred years. According to the 1851 census return, six men worked independently as cordwainers/shoemakers in Upwood, a village with a population of only 416. Whether all six were employed making boots and shoes is debatable and it is more likely that several were working on horse harnesses. Thomas Catling, a shoemaker born in St. Ives, traded in Upwood for 30 years between 1851 and 1881. By 1891 there was no shoemaker living in the village.

Brickmaking had been carried on locally for many years and Upwood and Raveley was home to several families of brickmakers in the 19th century. Richard Larrit and Sanders Bedford, both living at Fenside, were both recorded as brickmakers in 1851 whilst George Brightly at Fen Lode, although primarily a farmer, also gave his occupation as brickmaker. Much new building took place in both Gt. Raveley and Upwood in the 1870s including Colletts (later known as Post Office) Row.

Thomas Hawkes the tailor from Wistow lived in Upwood for over 30 years from 1851 to 1881 whilst Charles Bradshaw, an Upwood man, remained as a gardener for over 40 years. John Evison moved into Upwood in the 1890s from Ramsey where he had his chemical manure factory on the riverbank near Bodsey. He lived at Upwood House until around 1910.

The job of carrier was important both for transporting goods and people. In the late 19th century, William Sinclair's cart went to St. Ives market on Mondays and to Huntingdon on Saturdays, returning the same day. By 1924 Oswald Jacobs took over the job of carrier with the same route.

The Deighton family originally started in the village as millers, working with Lewis Fordham at the Mill. By 1924, William Deighton was recorded as a thatcher. As well as thatching roofs in Upwood and Raveley, he also thatched straw stacks to protect them from the rain. The cart he used to carry his straw and tools was originally pulled by a donkey. Later he had a pony called 'Jack' to pull the cart. The family lived at the bottom of the village on land recently developed as Thatcher's Close.